Reserved quota for backward class

*308. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Government financial institution has advertised for vacancies after the Central Government notification dated 8th September, 1993 that 27% seats are reserved for Backward Classes;

(b) if so, whether 27% reservation quota is maintained;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether all the posts will be re-advertised to maintain the 27% quota for Backward Classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) have reported that they issued advertisements for recruitment to certain posts after the Central Government instructions dated 8th September, 1993 without providing for reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) owing to non-receipt of Government instruction in time. RBI has been advised to readvertise these vacancies after providing for reservations for OBCs in terms of the Government instructions dated 8th September, 1993. In the case of LIC, the further recruitment process has been kept in abeyance and no appointment has been made so far against the advertised vacancies. The LIC has since issued instructions for determining the number of vacancies which ought to have been reserved for OBCs. The OBC vacancies will be advertised by the zonal offices shortly and their recruitment process initiated. Simultaneously, the recruitment process, which has been kept in abeyance in the case of other than the OBC candidates, will also be restarted. The appointment letters will be issued to the OBCs simultaneously with the other candidates so that their seniority does not get affected.

Excise and Customs duty reduction in SSI sector

*310. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government reviewed the consequences of excise duty modifications and customs duty reduction on the Small Scale Sector which constitutes about 60% of the industrial production of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the Small Scale Sector will be affected in its industrial growth and production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Small scale sector contributes about 40% of the industrial production in the country. In the budget 1994-95, the Government have reviewed excise duty exemptions available to various commodities and many such exemptions were removed. Removal of full duty exemptions actually provides a comparative fiscal advantage to a small scale unit because in that case a large unit manufacturing same goods is required to pay duty whereas a small unit can enjoy duty exemptions/concession.

Government have reviewed likely impact of most of the excise duty and customs duty changes made in the budget 1994-95 in the light of various representations received from small scale

sector and others. Having regard to the representations received, Government have restored the excise duty exemption to certain goods like footwear upto a value of Rs. 50 per pair, umbrellas, corrugated boxes, rubber baloons, handkerchieves, shawls, soap made without the aid of power, towels and other madeups manufactured by handloom sector.

Consequent to withdrawal of excise duty exemptions, most of these commodities have been extended excise duty concessions available to small scale units.

Various measures for simplifying the excise procedure to SSI units have also been taken by the Government. These measures include removal of the requirement of registration of Department of Industry for availing of duty exemption, discontinuation of filing of declaration by units having turnover of less than Rs. 30 lakhs in a year and acceptance of private recordes of the SSI unit for excise purpose.

Certain changes have also been made in the brand name provision in the small scale schemes for excise duty concession so as to provide that a SSI unit can manufacture branded machinery parts for another person without payment of excise duty upto Rs. 30 lakhs in a year and without following any cumbersome procedure.

Customs duty reduction has been made in the budget so as to make key imported raw materials and capital goods available to domestic industry at reasonable cost. This will benefit small scale industry also.

(c) As the budget proposals aim at promoting industrial growth generally and the interest of small scale sector specially, these are likely to further encourage the growth of small scale sector.

Waiting list of telephones in Tamil Nadu

*311. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Tamil Nadu, district-wise and category-wise;

(b) by when the waiting list will be cleared; and

(c) the programme if any, chalked out for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As on 30.6.1994, number of persons on the waiting list are 3,19,811. District-wise and category-wise details are as per Statement (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Annual Plan 1994-95 envisages provision of 1.52 lakh telephone connections. Efforts are also being made to lease additional equipment to increase the target to 2.9 lakh telephone connections to reduce the waiting list further. As per National Telecom. Policy telephones are to be provided on demand by 1.4.1997.

Statement

District-wise and category-wise waiting list in Tamil Nadu

Sl. No.	Name of Revenue District	Waiting List		
		OYT	NOYT(S)	NOYT(G)
1.	Ambedkar	313	526	10486
2.	Chengalpattu MGR	113	225	6659
3.	Chidambaranar	534	383	5648
4.	Coimbatore	2726	3320	46602
5.	Dharmapuri	200	332	3576